

Ref: MfE discussion document "Measuring Up: Environmental Reporting"

13 September 2011

LODGED BY EMAIL

Submission on the discussion document: "Measuring Up: Environmental Reporting"

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment about the proposal to introduce an Environmental Reporting Bill.

The Grey District Council endorses the Government led initiative to ensure that national state of the environment reporting is regular and independent. However there is a lack of clarity in the discussion document about what impact the initiative will have on Territorial Authorities.

It is a robust concept that a national collection of local environmental monitoring information will be better aligned if the statistics are more consistent. However there appears to be a gap in the discussion document about how this collection of local information will transfer to a National State of the Environment programme:

- Currently local environmental monitoring frameworks are developed to inform at a local or regional level, not national
- It is critical that the relevance and value to the 'Nation' of gaining any new information is considered in context of the cost and usefulness of the information to each locality that collects it
- It would be inappropriate to merely transfer the duties and costs of a national environmental reporting regime to local government.

The Grey District Council agrees with and supports the matters that are identified in the **Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) submission** and in the "Consultation Questions" that LGNZ have answered.

If you would like to clarify any of the points I have made please contact me directly.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely